

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- In the main groove 7b having the groove width widened during the inflation, the groove wall W_1 near the center is inclined outward in the tire width direction toward the groove bottom, and the groove wall W_2 near the shoulder is inclined outward in the tire width direction toward the groove bottom. More specifically, as shown in FIG. 3, an inclination angle α_1 of the groove wall W_1 near the center with respect to the tread surface 1a is smaller than 90° , and an inclination angle α_2 of the groove wall W_2 near the shoulder with respect to the tread surface 1a is larger than 90° . Moreover, inside the main groove 7b, the thin rib 9 protruding from the groove bottom is provided so as to be extended in the tire circumferential direction, and the thin rib 9 is constituted to be along the groove wall W_2 near the shoulder while being close thereto. As shown within Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the space 7b between the thin rib 9 and the first groove W_1 wall is larger than a space between the thin rib 9 and the second groove wall W_2 . It is recommended that ~~a~~the space between the thin rib 9 and the groove wall W_2 near the shoulder be set to 4 mm or smaller. --